(ग) से (ङ) कोयले की पर्याप्त आपूर्ति के कारण चालू वर्ष के दौरान कोककर कोयले की कमी होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है । चालू वर्ष के लिये जिस मांग का अनुमान किया गया था उससे वास्तविक मांग कम है जिसके कारण कोयले के उत्पादन में नीचे की ओर संशोधन किए जाने की आवश्यकता है तथापि कोककर कोयले का उत्पादन मांग से कम है और कोयले के भंडारों की प्रकृति के कारण इसमें वृद्धि होने की सीमित संभावना ही है ।

Denationalisation of coal sector

1869. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to denationalise the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the legislative measures will be initiated to give effect to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Coal propose to make amendment to Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow coal mining by Indian companies without the existing restriction of captive consumption. The proposal does not involve privatisation of any of the existing coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) or of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Low Productivity in underground mines

1870. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that low productivity in underground mines is an important constrant affecting the profitability of the coal sector and the output per man shift has stagnated around 55 tonnes for the last two decades despite massive investments made in mechanisation of underground mines; and

(b) the action planned by Govenment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The low productivity in undeground mines is an important constraint affecting the profitability of coal sector. The output per manshift in underground mines has not shown any marked improvement as has been with opencast mines. For the last few years the underground output per manshift has remained between 0.53 to 0.57 tonnes.

(b) Following measures are being taken to improve production from the underground mines of Coal India Limited :

(i) Adoption of intermediate technology of using mechanical loaders like side discharge loaders and load haul dumpers at coal face in underground mines.

(ii) Introduction of modern technology in selective UG mines.

(iii) Impovement in UG mechanised longwall face performance through better back up of spares and system improvement.

(iv) Improved working conditions in mines through better lighting, ventilation and communication.

(v) Introduction of "All man all job" concept wherever feasible.

(vi) Improvement in power supply particularly to mines in eastern region and setting up captive power plants in selected location, and

(vii) Improvement of industrial relation through participative management at all levels.

Loss suffered by ECL

1871. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Eastern Coalfields Ltd. suffered a loss of Rs. 341.1 crores in 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the financial results for 1997-98 and the first half of 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The loss suffered by Eastern Coalfields Limited for 1996-97 is Rs. 341.15

(b) The loans suffered by Eastern Coalfields Limited for 1997-98 was Rs. 541.89 crores and the loss sustained for first half of 1998-99 (April—September '98) is Rs. 347.29 crores (provisional and unaudited).

कोयला खानों का निजीकरण

1872. **श्री राम शंकर कौशिक :**
श्री० रामगोपाल यादव :

क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कोयला खानों के निजीकर के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में निर्णय कर लिया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कोयला खानों का निजीकरण किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार के कार्यक्रम/नीति/तौर-तरीके क्या-क्या हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय) : (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं । तथापि, कोयला मंत्रालय, कोयला खान (राष्ट्रीयकरण) अधिनियम, 1973 में संशोधन करने का विचार कर रहा है ताकि भारतीय कम्पनियों ग्रहीत उपभोग के विद्यमान प्रतिबंध के बिना कोयला खनन की अनुमति प्राप्त कर सके । उक्त में कोल इंडिया लि० (को० ई०लि०) अथवा सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कम्पनी लि० (सिं०को०कं०लि०) कोविद्यमान किसी कोयला खान के निजीकरण किये जाने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Faulty gas masks causing health risk to miners

1873. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the life saving equipments such as 30000 gas masks costing about Rs. 5 crores purchased by the Coal India Limited for the protection of coal miners have been found to be posing health risks to miners;

(b) if so, the name of company from which gas masks were purcnased by Coal India, Limited and at what price;

(c) whether the gas masks at the time of testing proved defective and the Coal India Limited have been directed by DGMS not to entertain the deal; and

(d) if so, this corrective measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c). Only filter self rescuers (FSRs) having approval from DGMS are procured by CIL. Against Global Tender for procurement of FSRs an order for 30,000 was placed on M/s Joseph Leslie Drager Mfg. Pvt. Ltd. on 13.10.95 at a cost of Rs. 5.06 crores. This order was placed against approval issued by DGMS vide lletter dated 6-10-95. This approval which was valid initially for 6 months was later on extended to 5.10.96 and then further extended upto 31-10-97 vide letters from